

Application No. 10/784,611
Filed: February 23, 2004
TC Art Unit: 2683
Confirmation No.: 8298

CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1- 35 (Canceled)

36. (Original) A method of controlling communications between a wireless communication device and another communication device comprising the steps of:

storing within a database at least one parameter corresponding to at least one restriction on use of said wireless communication device for outgoing communications, said at least one restriction comprising at least one of a time of day restriction defining at least one time period during which an outgoing communication from said wireless communication device is not permitted, an accessibility restriction comprising at least one identifier associated with another communication device that cannot be reached from said wireless communication device, and a location restriction defining at least one location at which an outgoing communication from said wireless communication device is not permitted;

forwarding said at least one parameter from said database to said wireless communication device and storing said at least one parameter in a memory within said wireless communication device;

in response to an attempt to initiate a communication from said wireless communication device to said other communication device, retrieving said at least one parameter from said memory and determining via use of a processor within said wireless communication device, whether a connection of said communication

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from said wireless communication device to said other communication device is contrary to said at least one restriction;

in the event the connection of said communication from said wireless communication device to said other communication device is not contrary to said at least one restriction, allowing the communication between said wireless communication device and said other communication device; and

in the event the communication from said wireless communication device to said other communication device phone is contrary to said at least one restriction, preventing the communication from said wireless communication device to said other communication device.

37. (Original) The method of claim 36, wherein said communication is a telephone call, said wireless communication device comprises a wireless phone, and said other communication device is another telephone and said preventing step includes the step of outputting a predetermined message for delivery to said wireless phone indicating that said call cannot be connected due to a restriction on use.

38. (Original) The method of claim 36, wherein said accessibility restriction defining at least one identifier that cannot be reached from said wireless communication device comprises a list of identifiers associated with other communication devices that are inaccessible from said wireless communication device, said method further including the steps of:

determining whether an identifier associated with said other communication device is included in said list of identifiers; and

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in the event said identifier is included in said list of identifiers, preventing said communication from being completed.

39. (Original) The method of claim 37, wherein said predetermined message indicates that said other communication device associated with said identifier is inaccessible.

40. (Original) The method of claim 36, further including the step of:

determining whether an identifier corresponding to said other communication device is included in a list of identifiers that can always be reached; and

in the event the connection of said communication is contrary to a use restriction comprising one of said time, date and location restriction, and said identifier corresponding to said other communication device is included in said list of identifiers corresponding to other communication devices that can always be reached, allowing said communication between said wireless communication device and said other communication device to proceed.

41. (Original) The method of claim 36, wherein said wireless communication device comprises a wireless phone, said other communication device comprise another phone, said communication is a call from said wireless phone to said other phone, the method further including the steps of:

determining whether a predetermined allocation of time for a specified control period associated with said wireless phone has been fully depleted;

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determining whether an identifier corresponding to said other phone is included in a list of identifiers associated with other phones that may always be called; and

in the event said predetermined allocation of time associated with said wireless phone has been fully depleted and said identifier corresponding to said other phone is in said list of identifier that may always be called, connecting said wireless phone to said other phone.

42. (Original) The method of claim 36 wherein said determining step comprises the step of executing program code on said processor within said wireless device to determine whether the connection of said communication is contrary to said at least one restriction.

43. (Original) Apparatus for controlling usage of a wireless device comprising:

a first memory within said wireless device for storing at least one parameter specifying at least one restriction on use of said wireless device for outgoing communications, said at least one restriction on use comprising at least one of a time of day restriction defining times during which an outgoing communication from said wireless device is not permitted, an accessibility restriction defining at least one identifier associated with another communication device that is inaccessible for outgoing communications from said wireless device, and a location restriction defining at least one restricted location from which an outgoing communications from said wireless device is not permitted;

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at least one processor within said wireless device;
a second memory operable to store program code executable on
said at least one processor; and
program code stored in said second memory and executable on
said at least one processor, said program code operable:

to detect the initiation of a communication from said
wireless device to said other communication device and,
responsive to said initiation, to determine whether a
connection of said communication between said wireless device
and said other communication device is contrary to said at
least one restriction;

to permit said communication from said wireless device
to said other communication device in the event said
connection is not contrary to said at least one restriction;
and

to prevent said communication from said wireless device
to said other communication device in the event said
communication is contrary to at least one of said at least
one restriction.

44. (Original) The apparatus of claim 43 wherein said first and
second memories comprise different portions of the same memory.

45. (Original) A system for controlling usage of a wireless
phone, said system operative in conjunction with a billing system
including a first server operable to execute a billing process and
a first database containing parameters defining billing parameters
applicable to said wireless device, said system comprising:

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a second server operable to execute a supervisory process for controlling usage of said wireless phone as an overlay to said billing process;

a second database containing a value defining a time duration that said wireless device may be used within a predetermined period, said second database being communicably coupled to said second server;

said second server being operative:

to maintain a record of time usage for said wireless phone within said predetermined period;

to prevent a call involving said wireless phone from being connected in the event said record of time usage indicates that said wireless phone has been used within said predetermined period for a period equal to said time duration; and

to allow a call involving said wireless phone to be connected in the event said record of time usage indicates that said wireless phone has been used in said predetermined period for a period less than said time duration.

46. (Original) The system of claim 45 wherein said first and second servers comprise a single server operative to execute said billing process and said supervisory process.

47. (Original) The system of claim 45 wherein said first database and said second database comprise portions of a single database.

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48. (Original) The system of claim 45 wherein said predetermined period comprises a calendar month and said value comprises a specified number of minutes.

49. (Original) The system of claim 45 wherein said second database includes an always accessible number associated with another communication device that may always be called by said wireless phone and said second server is operative to exclude time involving calls between said wireless phone and said other communication device from said record of time usage.

Claims 50 - 63 (Canceled)